

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07950 111046Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 111026Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6555

S E C R E T JIDDA 7950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: KING'S LETTER OF DEC. 9 TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF (A) JIDDA 7941, (B) JIDDA 7785, (C) JIDDA 7800

1. SUBJECT LETTER REFLECTS SAUDI MOOD NOTED IN REFTEL B.
2. I ASSUME PRESIDENT FORD DECIDED TO COMMUNICATE PRIVATELY WITH KING KHALID THROUGH SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND SAUDIS RESPONDED BY ASKING ME TO SEND DIRECT REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD THROUGH OUR CHANNELS.
3. THE PHRASEOLOGY, DETAIL AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE LETTER ARE NOT TYPICAL, THOUGH I FEEL CERTAIN THAT TRUE FEELINGS OF SAUDI HIERARCHY TOWARD PRESIDENT FORD ARE REFLECTED IN THE VERY CORDIAL EXPRESSIONS IN THE PENULTIMATE AND FINAL PARAGRAPHS. THE MULTIPLE ASSURANCES OF ESTEEM FOR PRESIDENT FORD BY THE KING, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCE SAUD ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN MY EXPERIENCE.
4. CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAPHS OF THE LETTER BRINGS ME TO BELIEVE THAT SAUDIS FEEL THEY MUST GO ALONG WITH PRICE RISE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN PER CENT. IN ACCEPTING THAT, HOWEVER, THEY COULD GO FOR DELAY TO PERMIT THEM TO CONTACT NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION.
5. THERE IS STILL TIME FOR EFFORT TO INFLUENCE OUTCOME OF OPEC MEETING, ESPECIALLY AMOUNT OF INCREASE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 07950 111046Z

INCREASE. IF PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ARE SO INCLINED,

THEY COULD HAVE CROWN PRINCE FAHD INFORMED THAT HE WILL BE INVITED TO UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR AFTER NEW ADMINISTRATION ASSUMES OFFICE (REFTEL C). SUCH AN ASSURANCE SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY QUALIFICATION TO EFFECT THAT VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED AT EARLY DATE IF USG NOT RPT NOT COPING WITH ECONOMIC PRESSURES ARISING FROM PRICE INCREASE. SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE MANAGEABLE HERE. PLEASE NOTE PRINCE FAHD WILL BE REGENT FOR NEXT TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS.

6. ING KHALID'S COMMENTS IN THE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF HIS LETTER CONCERNING ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT-ELECT ARE ALL NEWS TO US. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HERE PRETENDING TO BE FAMILIAR WITH VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHAT THEY SAID PRIVATELY TO SAUDIS. NOR HAVE WE SEEN NEWS REPORTS WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SUCH STATEMENTS.  
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 JIDDA 7941, 76 JIDDA 7785, 76 JIDDA 7800  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KING'S LETTER OF DEC. 9 TO PRESIDENT FORD  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, SA, US, OPEC, (FORD, GERALD R), (KHALID, KING)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006